

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03016 251513Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0676

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 3016

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PA
SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 169054 (B) STATE 164912 (C) GRAHAM TELCON 7/22

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ON AUGUST 16 AND 17 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEDULE REFTEL (A)).

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOP OFFICIALS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARAGUAY'S BURGEONING ECONOMY.

(A) THE ONLY PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS AT THE MOMENT IS THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE ARE THE STALLED IAHRC VISIT, CONTINUING PROLONGED DETENTIONS, ARBITRARY ARRESTS, AND OTHER ABUSES UNDER PARAGUAY'S INDEFENSIBLE PERMANENT STATE OF SIEGE. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THE GOP DURING THE PAST YEAR HAS EITHER RELEASED OR HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING DETAINEES PREVIOUSLY HELD WITHOUT CHARGES TO THE COURTS SO THAT THEIR CASES MAY BE PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. ALSO, THE CORDIAL/OPEN RECEPTION OF ILHR REPRESENTATIVES STEPHANSKY AND HELFELD WAS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

(B) AN APPROPRIATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHOULD BE MADE OF PARAGUAY'S BURGEONING ECONOMY, ITS HIGH RATING BY EX-IM BANK, IBRD, AND USDOC, AND THE ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THE PARANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON
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PARAGUAY'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

3. WE WILL PROVIDE TALKING POINTS, SUGGESTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND PRESS GUIDANCE BY SEPTELS.
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Message Attributes

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